

CSR News Flash

August 23, 2011
Center for Scientific Review
National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Contact:
[Don Lockett](#)
CSR Press Office
301-435-1111

Dr. Richard Nakamura Named CSR's Acting Director

Richard Nakamura, Ph.D., will become Acting Director of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at the National Institutes of Health. NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., made the announcement today to replace current CSR Director Toni Scarpa, M.D., Ph.D., who [retires](#) September 2, 2011.



Dr. Nakamura will take the helm at CSR on September 18. From September 3 until September 18, CSR Deputy Director Cheryl Kitt, Ph.D., will assume leadership responsibility at the Center.

Dr. Nakamura has had a 35-year tenure at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), where he has served as both Scientific Director and Deputy Director of the institute, and he served as Acting Director from 2001 to 2002.

“I appreciate Richard’s willingness to lead CSR in this transitional period,” said Dr. Collins. “He received various professional and government awards, including the Presidential Rank Award for outstanding leadership.”

Dr. Nakamura will lead CSR’s 450 scientists and administrative staff, overseeing their efforts to manage 80,000 incoming NIH grant applications a year and review the majority of them in CSR peer review groups. CSR holds 1,600 review meetings a year, involving about 18,000 reviewers from the scientific community.

“I look forward to working with the many dedicated individuals engaged in this great enterprise,” said Dr. Nakamura. “It’s a privilege to help NIH identify research with the most promise for making our world more healthy and productive.”

Dr. Nakamura came to NIMH in 1976 as a postdoctoral fellow. In the mid-80’s he coordinated NIMH’s Biobehavioral Program and later was Chief of its Integrative Neuroscience Research Branch. Between 1997 and 2007, he served as the institute’s Deputy Director. From 2007 to 2011 he has been institute Scientific Director. While at NIMH, he also has held other positions, including Associate Director for Science Policy and Program Planning; Chief, Behavioral and Integrative Neuroscience Research Branch; and Coordinator, ADAMHA Office of Animal Research Issues.

He earned his B.A. in psychology from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, his M.A. in psychology from New York University, and his Ph.D. in psychology from the State University of New York in Stony Brook.

Dr. Nakamura's has expertise in a number of areas, including cognitive and comparative neuroscience, science policy/funding and ethics in science. He has published 30 peer reviewed scientific journal articles, most related to neurocognition in primates.

In addition to receiving the Presidential Rank Award for outstanding leadership, Dr. Nakamura received the following awards:

- Recognition from the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for his leadership in the Secretary's Initiative in Mental Health, and for the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health.
- Election by the American Association for the Advancement of Science Board of Directors to the status of AAAS Fellow.
- Outstanding Achievement Award for Administrative Work from the NIH-Asian/Pacific American Organization.
- Leadership awards from the Federation of Behavioral Psychological and Cognitive Sciences and the International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience.

About CSR: CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews—free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.